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PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS REMIND RESIDENTS OF SAFETY DURING INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

GLENDALÉ, Ariz. – How are you celebrating this Independence Day? Whether it is a backyard barbecue, pool party or watching fireworks, Glendale officials want to remind residents of important information to keep your family safe.

Although the state has allowed the sale of consumer fireworks in 2010, many communities around the Valley including Glendale banned fireworks within city limits. “Consumer fireworks present an extreme danger, not only to citizens but also to firefighters and other first responders who are the first to arrive to emergencies involving fireworks,” said Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick. “Establishing a full fireworks ban in Glendale demonstrates safety is the highest priority and creates consistency with our neighboring cities.” According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) in 2008, fireworks caused an estimated 22,500 reported fires, including 1,400 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires, and 20,600 outside fires.

The penalty for setting off fireworks within city limits is a class one misdemeanor, with a minimum fine of \$275. Additionally, in the event that Police and/or Fire are dispatched, a person may also be held financially responsible for all costs associated with the emergency response.

There are some allowable ‘novelty’ items (federally deregulated) that are legal in Glendale which include sparklers, snappers, snap caps, glow worms, snakes, smoke devices and party poppers. While these are allowable, they must be handled with extreme caution; these devices should never be used without adult supervision and they should only be used in the outdoors. Each package sold will have safety information – make sure you read any and all precautions on the packaging.

Glendale recommends that residents take the safe route and attend one of the many fireworks shows offered across the Valley, including the Fireworks Fest at Westgate Entertainment District, July 4, 5-9:30 p.m.

4th of July Safety

Add 1.1.1

Many Fourth of July parties will also involve backyard barbeques. According to the NFPA, between 2005 and 2009, gas and charcoal grills caused on average 3,400 structure fires and 4,800 outdoor fires in or on home properties. Although July is the peak month for fires caused by barbecue grills, these types of fires can happen at any time throughout the year. Keep these safety reminders in mind to ensure a safe and memorable holiday:

- Position the grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches and away from play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area with a three-foot "safe zone."
- Use long-handled grilling tools for plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so a hot grill cannot ignite it.
- For charcoal grills, purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- For propane grills, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. Have leaking fuel lines repaired before using.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Placing combustibles too close to heat, and leaving cooking unattended, are the two leading causes for charcoal grill home fires.
- Half of all gas grills and charcoal grill home fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch. Wall coverings, exterior trim, and plants are the leading items first ignited in home outdoor charcoal grill fires.

In addition, the important message of safety around water is ever present; if your party is around the pool and in the water, be certain a designated adult is with the children at all times. For more information on all of these safety topics, visit www.glendaleaz.com/safesummer.

For media interviews, contact Fire PIO Michael Young at 623-238-0179 or Police PIO Jay O'Neill at 623-930-3076.

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